

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /098 W

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P R 041755Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3292

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN CI BE

SUBJECT: CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING

REF: STATE 45567

1. EMB CONVEYED US VIEWS ON PARIS CLUB MEETING ON CHILE DEBT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FINANCE MINISTRY. SENIOR FINACNE MINISTRY ADVISER, JACQUES VAN YPERSELE, INFORMED MORNING MARCH 4 OF USG POSITION RE UK DECISION. LATER SAME DAY, HE HELEPHONED RESPONSE "AFTER HAVING CONSULTED HIS MINISTER." ACCORDING TO VAN YPERSELE, HIS MINISTRY FEELS CONFIDENTIAL

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IT ESSENTIAL THAT A DECISION ON CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING BE

TAKEN COLLECTIVELY BY THE BELGIAN CABINET (EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY) AND THAT PARLIAMENTARY FINANCE COMMITTEE MUST ALSO HAVE ITS VIEWS SOUNDED. THIS BEING THE CASE, VAN YPERSELE NOTED, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT BELGIUM WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE PARIS MEETING MARCH 24-25. NOT ATTENDING, HE HASTENED TO ADD, SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS IMPLYING WHETHER OR NOT BELGIUM WOULD ULTIMATELY JOIN IN A DEBT RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH DE DOBBELEER, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL, FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE STRESSED POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN BELGIUM TO ANY MATTER RELATING TO CHILE. PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUT TO THE GOVERNMENT BY OPPOSITION PARTIES QUESTIONING BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN CONSOLIDATING CHILE'S DEBT. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT HAS DEFENDED CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS, NOW THAT UK HAS OPENED ISSUE ON POLITICAL LEVEL, BELGIUM WILL HAVE TO REVIEW ITS POSITION. UK REPRESENTATIVE MET WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LAST FRIDAY FEB. 28, TO URGE BELGIAN ALIGNMENT WITH UK POSITION.

3. ALTHOUGH DE DOBBELEER SAID BELGIAN POSITION ON ATTENDANCE AT MEETING WAS STILL OPEN, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING EXERCISE. IT HAD PREPARED INTERNAL PAPER URGING BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE MARCH MEETING. DECISION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD BE MADE BY THE MINISTER HIMSELF WHO WOULD BE SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC ASPECTS. DE DOBBELEER SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT OUTCOME AND SAID HE DOUBTED DECISION WOULD BE REACHED SOON. HE WILL KEEP EMB INFORMED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, DEBT REPAYMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE01879
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750075-0885
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750386/aaaaczgm.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 45567
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING
TAGS: EFIN, CI, BE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006